

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169059
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 169059

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 4593 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 20.

QUOTE S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4593

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF US

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S "PEACE PROPOSAL"

REF: STATE 168595

1. I GOT ARABIC TRANSLATION OF YOUR MESSAGE INTO ASSAD'S HANDS THIS MORNING VIA HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY MINUTES BEFORE A TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR INTERVIEW HE THEN PROCEEDED TO GIVE TO NEWSWEEK SENIOR EDITOR ARNAUD DEBORCHGRAVE. DEBORCHGRAVE, DRAWING ON ISRAELI PRESS LEAKS OF BEGIN'S ALLEGED "PEACE PROPOSAL," OPENED INTERVIEW SEEKING ASSAD'S REACTION.

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2. SPEAKING FOR THE RECORD, ASSAD SAID "ANY SUCH PEACE PROPOSAL WAS DEFINITELY REJECTED." PRESIDENT THEN LAPSED INTO SILENCE. DEBORCHGRAVE ASKED IF BEGIN'S REPORTED IDEAS CONTAINED POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. ASSAD REPLIED WHAT HAD BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO GEGIN DID NOT CONSTITUTE A PEACE PLAN. ATER IT WAS A COLLECTION OF IDEAS AIMED AT

LEGALIZING ISRAEL'S REMAINING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
IT WAS A "NON-STARTER AND NOT A BASIS FOR TALKS OR
NEGOTIATIONS, A FACT BEGIN KNEW IN MAKING HIS PRESENTATION."

3. ACCORDING DEBORCHGRAVE, ASSAD ALSO DISMISSED IDEAS OF
ROTATING CHAIRMAN OR PROXIMITY TALKS, SAYING SINCE THE
PROBLEMS WERE NOT SEPARATE, THERE THEREFORE WAS NO NEED FOR
SEPARATE COMMITTEES. PRESIDENT STATED ONLY OPTION HE SAW
WAS TO RECONVENE GENEVA TO DISCUSS "ELEMENTS OF PEACE."

4. FOREGOING JUST GIVEN ME BY DEBORCHGRAVE IN QUICK
DEBRIEFING OF HIS INTERVIEW OF ASSAD, WHICH TOGETHER WITH
INTERVIEW HE EXPECTS HAVE WITH KING HUSSEIN TONIGHT AT
AMMAN OR TOMORROW AT AQABA WILL CONSTITUTE HIS NEWSWEEK
STORY NEXT WEEK. DEBORCHGRAVE SAID HE IS SCHEDULED INTERVIEW
SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA SUNDAY EVENING, TOO LATE TO APPEAR IN
NEXT NEWSWEEK.

5. COMMENT:

DEBORCHGRAVE WILL TELEX INTERVIEW TEXT FROM AMMAN TO
DAMASCUS TOMORROW FOR FINAL CLEARANCE WITH PRESIDENCY.
KNOWING DEBORCHGRAVE, STRONGLY DOUBT HE WOULD BE AMENABLE TO
KILLING STORY. CAN ONLY HOPE OUR INTERVENTION WILL
SERVE LIMIT FURTHER SYRIAN REACTION TO VIEWS THUS FAR ONLY
ATTRIBUTED TO BEGIN. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW ISRAELI
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PRIMIN HANDLES HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LATER TODAY.

6. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS AMMAN, CAIRO, JIDDA, BEIRUT
TEL AVIV AND WHITE HOUSE.
MURPHY UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, CAT-B, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PEACE PLANS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770737/aaaabfvx.tel
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
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